

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-20 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 1-20.

In an Office Action mailed on July 5, 2006, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Segev et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,848,021) in view of Goiffon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,792). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Per MPEP 706.02(l)(1) and 706.02(l)(2), in order to disqualify the Segev patent, in a response filed on April 11, 2006, Applicants attached a Declaration signed by Dale M. Crockatt that declares that U.S. Patent Application No. 10/621,806 and U.S. Patent No. 6,848,021 were, at the time the invention of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/621,806 was made, owned by International Business Machines Corporation. A copy of the Declaration is attached.

Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is moot.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-20 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0449.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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